



# News Release

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Contacts: [Marqise Allen](#), Communications Office  
[Kelly Stowe](#), Communications Office

360-236-4072

360-236-4022

## **King Co. midwife suspended on charges of providing subpar care to patients**

**OLYMPIA** — A King County midwife has been immediately suspended on charges of not meeting the standard of care for a reasonably competent midwife. She's also charged with creating unreasonable risk of harm to her patients.

The Washington State Department of Health Midwifery Program took action against Suzanne Thomson (MIDW.MW.00000204) based on charges related to the care of several patients. Thomson allegedly failed to properly assess ultrasound results, consult with a physician after those results indicated a higher level of risk for her patients, and didn't respond appropriately to a declining fetal heart rate during delivery. She also allegedly instructed unlicensed staff to perform duties for which a license is required, withheld patient information from subsequent health care providers, and delayed sending her patient records to the hospital when her patient was transported there for care.

Thomson has 20 days to request a hearing to contest the charges and the suspension and cannot practice until the charges are resolved.

The documents can be seen online by clicking "[Look up a health care provider](#)" on the [Department of Health website](#). Copies can also be requested by calling 360-236-4700. The number can also be used to file complaints against health care providers in Washington.

The state Department of Health Midwifery Program regulates midwives in Washington. The program establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to state residents.

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